

Poplar Hill
Near Rosaryville, Prince Georges County
Maryland.

HABS No.

315

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Washington D.C.

MULTIPLE
ADDENDUMS
FOLLOW

Historic American Buildings Survey
Delos H. Smith, District Officer
1707 Eye St. N.W., Washington D.C.

Addendum To
Poplar Hill (His Lordships Kindness)
(Henry Darnall II House)
His Lordship's Kindness Road
Rosaryville Vicinity
Prince Georges County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-315

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

ADDENDUM
FOR...

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

addendum to:
Popular Hill
Henry Darnall II House)
(His Lordship's Kindness)
His Lordship's Kindness Road
Rosaryville
Prince Georges County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-315

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

POPLAR HILL
(Henry Darnall II House)
(His Lordship's Kindness)
7607 Woodyard Road
Clinton
Prince George's County
Maryland

HABS NO. MD-315

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Addendum To:
POPLAR HILL
(Henry Darnall II House)
(His Lordship's Kindness)
7607 Woodyard Road
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

POPLAR HILL
(Henry Darnall, II House;
His Lordship's Kindness)

HABS NO. MD-315

Location: 7606 Woodyard Road, Clinton (Rosaryville vicinity), Prince George's County, Maryland

Present Owner: Mr. John Walton (also present occupant)

Present Use: Private residence

Significance: Poplar Hill, or His Lordship's Kindness as it is currently referred to, is an excellent example of an 18th-century, five-part Georgian plantation house. This elegantly detailed residence is among the finest examples of Georgian architecture in Prince George's County. The former plantation also includes a number of original outbuildings including: privy, smoke house, wash house, slave hospital and pigeon cote. It is also significant for its association with some of the county's most prominent and influential families, namely the Darnalls, Sewells and Daingerfields.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Late 18th-century. Originally believed to have been built between 1731-1735, architectural historians now believe that it was built during the last quarter of the 18th-century. The later date is suggested by the five-part Georgian plan of the house and architectural detailing such as the Palladian windows and entry fanlight, all of which are features of later Georgian, Adams-influenced design.

2. Architect: Legend has it that an architect was sent from England to design this house. There is no documentation to support this. However, the elaborate design of His Lordship's Kindness would suggest that it was designed by an architect or master carpenter/joiner.

3. Original and subsequent owners:

1703 February 29, 1703, "His Lordship's Kindness" surveyed for Colonel Henry Darnall I (Bowie, p. 243).

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- 1711 June 16, 1711, Henry Darnall I died and was buried at his plantation "Darnall's Delight", also known as "Woodyard" in southern Prince George's County (Virta, p. 30). Property to Henry Darnall II.
- 1735? Property passes to Henry Darnall III
- 1788 Will T #1:264
Ann Darnall, widow of Henry Darnall III
To
Robert Darnall, son
- 1801 Will, Administration 1810
Robert Darnall
To
Robert Sewell
"I give and bequeath upon my nephew Robert Sewell ... Three hundred and fifty acres being part of a tract of land called and known by the name of His Lordship's Kindness.... on which my present dwelling house now stands together with all the out houses and appurtenances thereon belonging. Together with all the negroes, stock of horses, cattle, sheep that shall be on either of the aforesaid tracts of land at the time of my death."
- 1820 Will, Administration 1810, signed December 1820, date of death December 18(?) 1820
(Dr.) Robert Sewell
To
Robert Darnall Sewell
"I give and devise unto my son, Robert D. Sewell, the tract of land of three hundred and fifty acres at Poplar Hill whereon the Mansion House stands, subject to the life estate of his mother."
- 1853 Will PC #1:494, Administration #247, Will signed December 1, 1852, Date of death March 23, 1853
Robert Darnall Sewell
To
Susan Sewell Daingerfield and Ellen C. Daingerfield
"I give and devise to my nieces, Susan S. Daingerfield and Ellen C. Daingerfield.... as

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tenants in common... my home stead plantation on which I now reside commonly known as "Poplar Hill".... and all my household and kitchen furniture including bedsteads and bed clothes and every other article or thing whatever which may be in my house at "Poplar Hill" at the time of my death.

1886 February 6, 1886 Susan Sewell Daingerfield, then wife of John Strode Barbour, died from injuries received from falling down the steps of their house. Later, John S. Barbour who died in 1892 bequeathed "All residue of property real and personal to my sister-in-law, Ellen C. Daingerfield for love and affection which I bear her and because I wish to return to her side (of the family).... whatever property I received from my beloved wife, her (Ellen's) sister... (Bowie, 588-89).

1912 Will (copy in Equity #6610), dated June 16, 1906 and admitted to probate March 6, 1912.
Ellen C. Daingerfield
To
Henry Daingerfield, nephew
"To my nephew Henry Daingerfield, son my deceased brother Henry Daingerfield for and during his natural life and after his death to his eldest son then living all that part of my plantation in Prince George's County called Poplar Hill or His Lordship's Kindness...." later in the Will, "Should the above gifts fail.... the property... to my nephew, Philip Barton Key Daingerfield, son of my deceased brother, Henry Daingerfield....."

1926 Equity #6610
Henry Daingerfield
vs.
Philip Barton Key Daingerfield, et al
Henry Daingerfield appeals to the County Court for a Decree to the sell the property acquired by him through the Will of Ellen C. Daingerfield. Bill for the sale of real estate filed June 1926, F. Snowden Hill and Richard C. Thompson, trustee for the sale.

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- 1929 Deed 326:242, March 19, 1929
 Richard C. Thompson, surviving trustee
 To
 Rachel Cameron Hale
 That part of Poplar Hill containing 202.25
 acres.
- 1940 Deed 559:409, March 28, 1940
 Rachael Cameron Hale and Chandler Hale,
 husband, of Washington, D.C.
 To
 Caroline E. Dunham
 202.25 acres... "His Lordship's Kindness" or
 "Poplar Hill."
- 1946 Deed 884:27, September 16, 1946
 Caroline E. Dunham and Thomas E. Dunham of
 Prince George's County
 To
 David K.E. Bruce, of Virginia
 202.25 acres "His Lordship's Kindness" or
 "Poplar Hill."
- 1950 Deed 1265:127, August 8, 1950
 David K.E. Bruce and Evangeline E. Bruce
 To
 Royd R. Sayers and Edna L. Sayers
 202.25 acres (plus the Walters Mill property)
- 1954 Deed 1775:1, September 21, 1954
 Royd R. Sayers and Edna L. Sayers
 To
 The New Mount Olive Cemetery Company, Inc.
 236.52 acres "His Lordship's Kindness" or
 "Poplar Hill"
- 1955 Deed 1951:46, December 30, 1955
 Patrick O'Boyle, Roman Catholic Archbishop of
 Washington, D.C.
 To
 John M. Walton and Sara R. Walton
 236.52 acres "His Lordship's Kindness" or
 "Poplar Hill"

4. Builder: Although the actual builder is unknown, the house is believed to have been built for Henry Darnall, III and his wife, Anne Talbott Darnall.

5. Original plans and construction: The current main block of the house was believed to have been built first, with the hyphenated wings having been added later. This has not been conclusively documented.

6. Alterations and additions: It has been considered that the hyphenated wings were added to the house, making it a five-part Georgian plan, during the late 18th- or early 19th-century. The northwest wing was built as a chapel and has since been converted into a library. In the southeast wing, a modern kitchen was added in the hyphen and the former kitchen is now used as the informal dining room/den, with rustic, barn siding added to the walls.

B. Historical Context:

His Lordship's Kindness is one of the finest of a number of Georgian plantation houses built by Prince George's County's wealthy planter and merchant class during the late 18th-century. Only His Lordship's Kindness and Montpelier, however, incorporate the five-part plan, pavilion front and other elaborate and distinctive features of the Palladian-influenced, late-Georgian design. The main block displays the symmetry and detailing of classic Georgian architecture. The hyphenated wings--a palladian ideal--formulate the five-part plan. The five-part plan is rarely seen in Georgian architecture prior to the American Revolution. Thus, His Lordship's Kindness is one of a few, high-style, five-part-plan Georgian homes built by an elite class in Maryland and Virginia during the late 18th-century.

The interior room arrangement of the house is as formal as its exterior. Upon entering the house, the large center hall and elaborate stairway immediately impress upon the visitor. The hall consumes almost one-third of the first floor--and the second floor. The formal parlor and dining room, located to the front of the house, are separated by perpendicular hallways from the family's private rooms to the rear. These perpendicular halls also allowed the household servants to enter the rooms as needed via the kitchen rather than the formal space. The kitchen--largely the domain of the servants--and the family's private chapel are kept apart from the social space where guests would be received, by their location in the wings to either side.

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The man credited with the construction of Poplar Hill or His Lordship's Kindness was Henry Darnall III, grandson of Henry Darnall who first established the family in Maryland and acquired a land grant here in 1703, known as His Lordship's Kindness. Legend has it that while studying in England, Henry III met Anne Talbott, niece of George, the 14th Earl of Shrewsbury, and fell in love. Although the Earl opposed the marriage of his ward to Henry Darnall, when Henry surprised him by providing the large marriage settlement demanded, the Earl conceded and they were married in 1735. The legend further states that the Earl had the house built for them by an English architect as a wedding present, hence the name, His Lordship's Kindness. However, records indicate that the house was referred to during that time as "Poplar Hill" and only more recently known by its tract name, "His Lordship's Kindness," which first appears on deeds to Henry's grandfather in 1703. Furthermore, re-evaluation of the construction and architectural details indicates a later date.

Henry Darnall was said to be one of Lord Baltimore's (Charles Calvert) staunchest supporters during the early period of conflict over Maryland rule. Henry Darnall came to Maryland from England in the 1670s. He was elected to the General Assembly, among other governmental posts, and when Lord Baltimore left Maryland in 1684 Darnall became one of the board of deputy governors charged with running the government in Lord Baltimore's absence. He later returned to England to join Lord Baltimore but returned once again to Maryland as a representative of the Calverts, administering their landholdings here. Thus, it was most likely Lord Baltimore's kindness in granting him this tract that Henry Darnall was referring to. The current dwelling house was built during the later part of the 18th-century.

Henry Darnall III was a planter and lawyer who also served as Attorney-General of Maryland in 1754. He and his wife had six children. Henry died sometime between 1783 and 1788. Anne Talbott Darnall died in 1788 (Bowie, 242-243). Upon her death Poplar Hill became the property of her first child, Robert Darnall, in 1788. Robert lived at Poplar Hill his entire life, running the family plantation. He died unmarried and childless, leaving Poplar Hill to his nephew, Dr. Robert Sewell, upon his death in 1801. According to his Will, "Three hundred and

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fifty acres.... known as His Lordship's Kindness.... on which my present dwelling now stands together with all the out houses and appurtenances thereon belonging. Together with all the negroes, stock of horses, cattle, sheep...." (Administration 1810). Robert Sewell was the son of Robert Darnall's sister Mary who had married Major Nicholas Sewell.

Dr. Sewell lived here (and maintained a town house in Washington, D.C.) with his wife, Mary Brent. Upon his death in 1820 Poplar Hill passed to his son, Robert Darnall Sewell, as stated "...land of three hundred and fifty acres at Poplar Hill whereon the mansion house stands, subject to a life estate of his mother...." who died in 1822 (Administration #1810). Included in the Poplar Hill estate was the "household furniture.... and the implements of husbandry.... the horses, black cattle, sheeps, hogs...." The estate also included one hundred slaves and a list of elaborate furnishings.

Robert, known as Colonel Robert Sewell, died at his Poplar Hill residence on March 23, 1853. Poplar Hill then became the property of his two nieces, Susan S. and Ellen C. Daingerfield, the daughters of his sister Susan, who married Henry Daingerfield of Alexandria, Virginia. According to his will, "....as tenants in common.... my home stead plantation on which I now reside commonly known as Poplar Hill.... all my household and kitchen furniture including bedsteads and bedclothes and every other article or thing whatever which may be in my house at Poplar Hill at the time of my death" (Administration 247).

Susan became the wife of John Strode Barbour of Virginia, a railroad builder and manager, U.S. representative and later Senator from Virginia. Susan and her husband resided at the Daingerfield family home in Washington, D.C., while Ellen resided at Poplar Hill. Her brothers, Henry and John S.B. Daingerfield (and his family) were also known to have lived here. Susan's share of the property reverted to Ellen following her accidental death in 1866. According to his testimony following the death of Ellen C. Daingerfield (Equity #6610), Richard C. Thompson, a farmer and lawyer of Washington, D.C., managed the business of the farm for Miss Daingerfield from 1889 until her death in 1912. He employed the farm manager and saw to the harvest, repairs, etc.

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Following the death of Ellen C. Daingerfield in March of 1912 Poplar Hill was passed to Henry Daingerfield, the son of her brother, Henry (who died 1894). As stated in her will, the property was to go to Henry and then to his oldest son. As further stated, "Should the above gifts fail...." the property went to Henry's brother, her nephew, Philip Barton Key Daingerfield and then to his oldest son. Thus Henry became the life tenant in 1912. He then leased the property to his brother, John Strode Barbour Daingerfield who operated the family farm here at Poplar Hill, beginning a ten-year lease in March of 1912. John operated the farm until December 1920, breaking the lease early due to high taxes and cost of maintaining the property, and lack of profit. At that time, Henry then assumed management of the farm. After five-and-a-half years without adequate profit, Henry petitioned the court for the sale of the property. Because Henry was childless at the time of the sale, his brother Philip and others became lawful heirs as well.

Thus began an inquiry into the property. In his testimony to the court, Henry Daingerfield described the Poplar Hill house as follows: "The house is 150 feet (across the) front, with a chapel on the west end, kitchen on the east; five rooms on the first floor, four rooms on the second floor and an attic and cellar the entire length of the house..." Also on the property according to Henry was a barn, stable, carriage house, two servants quarters, meat house, dairy, granary and cornhouse. Henry Daingerfield claimed that the lack of farm profit and the high cost of maintenance made him unable to adequately maintain the buildings and that they all (including the house) were in need of repair. Thus, the court decided (in 1926) it would be in the best interest of all parties to sell Poplar Hill.

Poplar Hill was offered for sale at a Trustee's public auction on the premises on 28th October 1926. The advertisement for sale described the property as:

Improved by a beautiful and historic Colonial mansion.... (with) a wide beautiful hall extending through the depth of the building. There are two wings... one formerly used as a chapel, the other as a kitchen. The rooms are large and airy and the whole house is flooded with light from a great many windows. It is finished in the finest of wood, with (a) beautiful staircase and many different

designs in windows. The mansion fronts on a large lawn falling away from one terrace to another on which are many old and beautiful trees and boxwood. The lawn in the rear is similarly designed.... It is considered one of the finest old colonial residences in Southern Maryland or elsewhere....

Finally, the property (house and 202.25 acres, exclusive of the family graveyard) was purchased by Mrs. Rachel Cameron Hale, of Washington, D.C., widow of Senator Hale of Maine. Mrs. Hale then made extensive repairs, as the property required. Poplar Hill became Mrs. Hale's summer home for a number of years until 1940 when it was sold to Caroline E. and Thomas Dunham (Deed 559/409). It was the Dunhams who changed the name from Poplar Hill to the tract name, His Lordship's Kindness. They sold the property to David K.E. Bruce and his wife, Evangeline, in 1946 (deed 884/27). Mr. Bruce had a distinguished diplomatic career. The property was purchased by John B. and Sara R. Walton in 1955 (deed 1951/46). Mr. Walton, a retired architect, still resides at His Lordship's Kindness.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: His Lordship's Kindness is an excellent example of late 18th-century Georgian architecture, one of a few in Maryland built in a classic palladian five-part plan. Its five-part plan and other features such as its Palladian windows and fanlight entries suggest the later Georgian influence of Palladian and Adamesque design. It is among the grandest and most formal historic residences in the county, having been designated a national historic landmark based on its architectural integrity.

2. Condition of fabric: His Lordship's Kindness is in excellent, well maintained condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: His Lordship's Kindness has a two-story, roughly square main block with hyphenated

wings to either side. The main block measures approximately 56' x 48'. The wings, built on axis to the main block, are one-and-a-half stories in height and measure approximately 15' x 20'. They are connected to the main block by single-story hyphens measuring approximately 14-1/2' x 15'. The total length of the five-part composition measures 116 feet.

2. Foundations: The house rests on a common-bond brick foundation with a molded brick water table.

3. Walls: The walls of the main block are of brick laid in Flemish bond with common bond in the foundation below the water table. The walls of the hyphens and wings are of brick in common bond.

4. Structural system, framing: The house is of load bearing masonry.

5. Stoops: There are stoops at both the northeast (carriage) front and southwest rear (or garden front). They consist only of stone steps without railings or other ornament.

6. Chimneys: There are two symmetrically placed, interior brick chimneys in the main block. They are square with corbelled caps and each serve four fireplaces, two up and two down. There are similar interior chimneys to the center of the rear wall of each wing.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The northeast (carriage) front entryway has a classic, Adamesque frontispiece identified as such by the fanlight over the entry. The doorway is recessed in a rounded arch with panelled reveals. To either side are fluted pilasters which support a pediment broken at the bottom to accommodate the fanlight. A narrow band in a triglyph-and-metope pattern runs over the top of the door and continues across the pilasters. The pediment is ornamented with large dentils with a molded backband with smaller dentils beneath it. The eight-panel wooden door matches the reveals.

The southwest rear (or garden front) has a much

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simpler doorway. There is a plain wooden surround with a round-arched top with a brick lintel. The arch has bull's-eye blocks at each corner and to the top center. The arch accommodates a fanlight. The door is the same as the front, eight-panel.

There are also doorways to the front and rear of the northwest hyphen and the front of the southeast hyphen. They are plain with a low-arched brick lintel. There are six-panel doors in the northeast hyphen and a four-panel door in the southwest.

b. Windows: The typical window of the main block is a nine-over-nine-light double-hung sash window (same size in first and second stories). They are recessed into the brick wall with only a narrow wooden bead showing, and the muntins are thin. They have flat-arched brick lintels. All the windows have louvered shutters.

Above both front and rear entries is a Palladian-like window in the second story. To the center is a rounded arched window, sixteen-over-six-light double-hung sash (with criss-crossing, pointed-arched muntins in the arch). To either side is a small four-over-four-light double-hung sash window. The center window has a round-arched brick lintel and the sidelights have flat-arched lintels. The center window is flanked by louvered shutters--in a half-arch to accommodate the arched window--and the sidelights have a single shutter to the outside. On the first story below, to either side of the entries, are sidelight-like narrow windows, six-over-six-light double-hung sash, with flat-arched lintels and a single shutter to the outside.

In the pediment atop the front pavilion is a semi-circular light with muntins to match those in the palladian window, and a round-arched lintel.

There is a high basement with roughly square windows covered with louvers. The typical window in the wings is a nine-over-six-light double-hung sash with an architrave surround and slightly wider muntins. The squared window has an arched brick lintel. There is a window at each wall with a semi-circular light (sunburst muntins).

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The typical window in the hyphens is a semi-circular light with pointed-arched muntins. There is an entry to the center of front wall with one of these windows to either side. The rear wall of the northwest wing has an entry without the window and the rear of the southwest wing has two rectangular windows covered with louvers. There are no shutters in the hyphens or wings.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: His Lordship's Kindness has an unusual roof on the main block. From the northeast front it is a low-hipped roof with a central pediment located above the pavilion front. Likewise, the sides are low-hipped, lit by a single dormer. However, to the southwest rear there are two hips, side by side, with dormers in the ridge that is formed between them. The explanation would seem to be that this roof allows for light into the center of the rooms, via the additional dormers. The hyphens have side-gable roofs, and the wings have hipped roofs. The roofs of the main block and wings are covered with wood shingles. The roofs of the hyphens are covered with raised seam metal.

b. Cornice, eaves: In the main block there is a plain, boxed cornice with an ovolo above a fillet followed by dentil molding with cyma reversa molding. The dentiled molding of the pediment matches that of the cornice. The cornice of the hyphenated wings has a plain narrow frieze with crown molding.

c. Dormers: There is a single dormer at both sides of the main block (slightly towards the front). To the rear where there are hipped roofs side-by-side, there is a dormer on the inside of each hip and one to the rear of the front roof (the three face in on each other). They are gabled dormers with six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows, with crown molding in the gable ends.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor: The house has a symmetrical Georgian plan with a center hall and two rooms to either side. Between the two rooms on either side is a hall, transverse from the center, longitudinal hall, which runs from the center hall, through the hyphens to the wings, forming a cruciform pattern. There is an entry to the center of the front and rear. The longitudinal hall is divided by an elliptical arch. The stairway is located along the southeast side and southwest rear walls. The front parlor and dining room are entered from doorways across from each other to the front of the hall, and from doorways to the rear of the rooms, off the transverse halls. The back rooms of the main block are entered from the transverse halls. At the end of each transverse hall are three steps down into the hyphens. The northwest hyphen has entries to either side. It leads into the former chapel, now library, in the wing. The southeast hyphen is wider, forming a hall with a modern kitchen to the rear. The hall leads into the former kitchen, now dining area/den, in the wing.

b. Second floor: The second floor follows the same basic pattern as the first, with a center hall from front to rear (creating an upstairs parlor), lit by palladian windows at both ends. There are four bedrooms, over each of the four first floor rooms (with short transverse connecting halls). The wings have no second floor.

2. Stairways: There is an elegant federal-style stairway to the back of the center hall. It is a three-flight, open-well, open-string stair. It begins along the southeast wall, rising to a landing. It then turns ninety degrees and continues up along the rear, southwest wall to a second landing, again turns ninety degrees, continuing to the second-floor hall. The molded handrail drops at each turn, and spirals at the bottom step which is made longer to accommodate it. There are turned balusters, two per step. The pattern of the handrail is duplicated on the inside wall. There are simple brackets with a punched out diamond pattern in step ends. The rear entry and bay to its southeast are cut off by the

stairway, preserving the exterior symmetry of the rear facade.

There is also a narrow, closed-string stairway in the former chapel wing which leads to an open gallery area. It begins along the southeast wall, then winds around ninety degrees and continues up to the gallery. It has a plain, squared handrail and newel post, with turned balusters in the balustrade of the gallery.

3. Flooring: There are hardwood floors throughout the house.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: There are heavy, molded cornices throughout the house. In the stairhall, first and second floors it is rounded, with a wide scotia band. In the first-story rooms it is more squared. There is also a chair rail in most rooms. On the walls of the stairway, there is a false handrail to match that of the stair.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There are a number of elaborate doorways in the center hall. The northeast front entry is flanked by pilasters which are reeded at the bottom and fluted at the top. A triglyph-and-metope pattern caps the pilasters and steps down along the top of the doorway. Above the doorway is the molded, rounded arch of the semi-circular light. The inside of the door is of horizontal boards with a framing around, and has a large box lock. The southwest rear doorway is recessed with panelled reveals that match the six-panel door. There is a simple, narrow molding with a bead near the outer edge. It too forms a rounded arch to support the semi-circular light.

The doorways between the parlor and dining rooms and the center hall have an architrave and pediment above, on both sides of the doorway. The top, inner portion of the pediment and the bottom underneath has medallions under which is an ovolo, dentilling and cyma reversa molding. Between the pediment and the doorway is a fluted band.

The doorways from the center hall into the perpendicular halls have an architrave surround

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with a semi-circular light above. There is a large elliptical archway which divides the center hall. There are recessed panel pilasters to the inside, and reeded and fluted pilasters to the front and rear of the arch, which match those at the front doorway. A triglyph-and-metope pattern tops the pilasters.

b. Windows: The windows have stepped architrave surrounds. The Palladian windows are flanked by fluted pilasters. The entablature above has dentilled and crenelated molding.

6. Decorative features and trim: There are a number of Federal mantels such as that in the parlor. The opening is surrounded with marble with a narrow architrave molding along the outer edge. Above is a fluted frieze with an unornamented, raised center panel, with dentil molding above. The mantel shelf has crown molding with medallions underneath.

7. Hardware: There are large, old box-locks on the front and rear entries. The doors into the front parlor and dining rooms have ornamental cast door-pulls.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: His Lordship's Kindness sits facing northeast, at the end of a long, winding drive which forms a circle at the (carriage) front of the house. Below the front circle is the horse pasture. The drive continues to the southeast, to the barn and farm overseer's residence.

2. Historic landscape design: The rear or garden front of the house looks out over the lawn and terraced area with ancient boxwoods. Beyond this is another horse pasture and the property line which separates His Lordship's Kindness from the Catholic cemetery. There is also a small family cemetery near this property line, west of the house. To the southeast of the house, a brick walk leads past three historic outbuildings--a wash house, smokehouse and reported slave hospital--on to the pigeon cote, barns, caretakers residence and former farm gates. To the south of the house is the privy.

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3. Outbuildings: There are five historic outbuildings still on the property: a privy, smokehouse, wash house, slave hospital and pigeon cote. The privy is a square, common-bond brick building with a pyramidal roof. The entry, flanked by small, square, four-light casement windows, faces northwest. There are three clean-outs which form arches along the southeast rear, and a fourth around the corner at the southwest elevation. The interior is finished with plaster walls with wide wainscoting with a beaded edge and nosing. The ceiling and floors are covered with rough boarding. It is a five-hole privy. There are four holes along the rear wall with the last stepped down, and a fifth adjoining it another step down (for children).

Forming a row are the smokehouse, wash house and slave hospital. The smokehouse is a square brick structure with a steeply pitched, gable-front roof. In the gable end, over the northeast facing entry, the open brickwork forms two diamond patterns. The wash house is a square, wood frame structure with a pyramidal roof. It has an entry to the northeast and a window to the side. Adjacent is the building reputed to have been the slave hospital (according to the current owner), now used as a guest house. It is a one-story, rectangular, common-bond brick building with a gable roof. At the northeast front is a central entry and six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows to either side, all with flat-arched lintels. Bricks turned on end form the cornice. There is a chimney at both gable ends. A frame addition (small bedroom and kitchen) has been added to the rear.

Lastly, is the pigeon cote. This is a small, frame, trapezoidal-shaped structure with a gable roof. Cut-outs in the gable ends allow for entry by the pigeons. There is a doorway at the northeast. In the interior, each end has slatted caging to contain the pigeons. The interior is otherwise unfinished, with the log roof rafters exposed.

Also on the property is a large, brick caretaker's residence built in the 1930s from the bricks of the carriage house and stables that once stood on this site. There is also a barn and shed and concrete gate posts at the southeast entry to the farm complex.

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PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early views: HABS photographer John O. Brostrup took seventeen views of "Poplar Hill" on July 22 & 23, 1936. There were three views of the carriage front and one of the garden front of the house, a view of the chapel wing and a doorway detail. The remainder were interior views of doorways, mantels, the stairway and paladian windows.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

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2. Secondary and unpublished sources:

Bowie, Effie G. Across the Years in Prince
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Virta, Alan. Prince George's County: A Pictorial
History. Norfolk: The Donning Publishing
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Prepared by: Catherine C. Lavoie
Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
April 1991

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IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of Poplar Hill or His Lordship's Kindness was undertaken as part of a cooperative project between the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert J. Kapsch, chief, and the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission on behalf of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to document select sites throughout the county. A memorandum of agreement was signed in August of 1988 and the project, to span one year, began in January of 1989. The site selection was made by Gail Rothrock, director, and Susan G. Pearl, research historian, of the HPC. They also provided access to their research and information on file with the HPC, as well as their extensive knowledge of county history. The large format photography was undertaken by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher. The historical report was prepared by HABS historian Catherine C. Lavoie who accompanied the photographer into the field for on site investigation and architectural description.